

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1) A connection system for interconnecting communication media, the connection system including:
- 5       a) A housing defining an internal cavity, the housing including an opening to thereby allow access to the cavity;
- b) One or more apertures extending through the housing to the cavity, each aperture being adapted to receive respective communications media;
- 10       c) One or more connectors mounted within the cavity, the connectors being adapted to interconnect the communications media extending through the aperture(s);
- d) A cover adapted to cooperate with the housing to define an air reservoir containing at least a portion of the housing including the opening, the reservoir and the housing cooperating to prevent fluid entering the cavity.
- 15
- 2) A connection system according to claim 1, the connection system further including a lid adapted to be removably mounted into the opening to thereby seal the cavity.
- 3) A connection system according to claim 1 or 2, the wherein the connectors are coupled
- 20 to a frame, the frame being pivotally mounted to the housing to move between:
- a) A first position in which the frame is contained in the cavity; and,
- b) A second position in which the frame extends through the opening to thereby allow access to the connectors.
- 25 4) A connection system according to claim 1 or 2, the cavity having first and second cavity portions, the connectors being mounted in the first cavity portion, the housing and cover being arranged such that the first cavity portion is contained in the air reservoir.
- 30 5) A connection system according to claim 4, the aperture(s) extending into the first cavity portion.

- 6) A connection system according to claim 4 or 5, the second portion of the housing being adapted to receive further connectors and/or control systems.
- 7) A connection system according to any one of claims 1 to 6, the housing having first and second opposing ends, the opening being positioned at the first of the housing, the second end of the housing forming a base.
- 8) A connection system according to claim 7, the cover comprising an upper member having side members extend substantially perpendicularly therefrom, the cover being positioned adjacent the opening in use, such that the side members extend towards the base.
- 9) A connection system according to any one of the claims 1 to 8, the connection system further including a container having a container opening to thereby allow the housing and cover to be positioned in the container in use.
- 10) A connection system according to claim 9, the container being positioned in the ground in use, with the housing positioned below ground level, with the communications media extending into the container through an aperture from a below ground level conduit.
- 11) A container for containing a connection system for interconnecting communication media, the container including:
- a) A cavity;
  - b) A loading system mounted in the cavity, the loading system comprising:
    - i) Two or more tines extending laterally across the container, the tines being adapted to support the connection system in use;
    - ii) A drive system positioned in a first end of the container, the drive system being coupled to the tines to selectively move the tines between:
      - (1) A retracted position in which the connection system is supported in the container below ground level; and,
      - (2) An extended position in which at least a portion of the connection system extends above ground level.

12) A container according to claim 11, the drive system including a winch coupled to one end of the container to thereby allow the tines to be manually winched between the retracted and extend positions.

5

13) A container according to claim 11 or 12, the connection system comprising a connection system according to any one of the claims 1 to 10.

14) A container according to claim 13, wherein the tines are adapted to cooperate with the housing defining the first cavity portion.

10

15) A method of interconnecting communications media, the method including:

- a) Extending the communications media into an internal cavity defined by a housing through one or more apertures, the housing having an opening therein to thereby allow access to the cavity;
- b) Interconnecting the media using one or more connectors mounted within the cavity; and,
- c) Positioning a cover over the housing such that the housing and cover cooperate to define an air reservoir containing at least a portion of the housing including the opening, the reservoir and the housing cooperating to prevent fluid entering the cavity.

15

20

16) A method according to claim 15, the step of extending the communications media through the aperture including:

- i) Inserting the communications media into the cavity through the aperture(s); and,
- ii) Sealing the aperture, to thereby prevent fluid entering or leaving the cavity through the aperture.

25

17) A method according to claim 15 or claim 16, the method further including positioning the housing in a container through a container opening.

30

18) A method according to claim 17, the method further including:

- a) Positioning the housing adjacent the container;
- b) Extending the communications media into the cavity;
- c) Interconnecting the communications media; and,
- d) Positioning the housing in the container.

5

19) A method according to any one of the claims 15 to 18, the housing having first and second opposing ends, the opening being positioned at the first of the housing, the second end of the housing forming a base, the cover comprising an upper member having side members extend substantially perpendicularly therefrom, the method including positioning  
10 the cover adjacent the opening in use, such that the side members extend towards the base.

20) A method according to any one of the claims 15 to 19, the method further including removably mounting a lid in the opening to thereby seal the cavity.

15 21) A method according to any one of the claims 15 to 20, the method including using a connection system according to any one of the claims 1 to 10.

22) A method of loading a connection system into a container, the method including using a loading system to position the housing in the container, the loading system including:

- 20
- a) Two or more tines extending laterally across the container, the tines being adapted to support the housing in use;
  - b) A drive system positioned in a first end of the container, the drive system being coupled to the tines to selectively move the tines between:
    - 25 i) A retracted position in which the housing is supported in the container below ground level; and,
    - ii) An extended position in which at least a portion of the housing extends above ground level;

the method including positioning the housing in the container by:

- 30
- (1) Placing the tines in the extended position;
  - (2) Positioning the connection system such that the connection system is supported by the tines;
  - (3) Moving the tines to the retracted position.

23) A method according to claim 22, the connection system comprising a connection system according to any one of the claims 1 to 10.

5 24) A method according to claim 23, the method of interconnecting the communications media including:

- a) Positioning the housing such that the housing is supported by the tines with the tines in the extended position;
- b) Placing the frame in the second position;
- 10 c) Interconnecting the communications media;
- d) Placing the frame in the first position;
- e) Removably mounting a lid in the opening to thereby seal the cavity;
- f) Positioning a cover over the housing such that the housing and cover cooperate to define an air reservoir containing at least a portion of the housing including the opening, the reservoir and the housing cooperating to prevent fluid entering the cavity; and
- 15 g) Moving the tines to the retracted position.

25) A system for protecting contents against immersion in a fluid, the system including:

- 20 a) A housing defining an internal cavity for containing the contents, the housing including an opening to thereby allow access to the cavity; and,
- b) A cover adapted to cooperate with the housing to define an air reservoir containing at least a portion of the housing including the opening, the reservoir and the housing cooperating to prevent fluid entering the cavity.

25

26) A system according to claim 25, the cover comprising a base member having a number of side members extending perpendicularly thereto, the base member and sided members being arranged such that the side and base members cooperate with the housing to define an air reservoir.

30

- 27) A system according to claim 26, the housing having a base for supporting the housing in use, and a top opposite the base, wherein in use, the cover is adapted to be positioned adjacent the top such that the side members extend toward the base.
- 5    28) A system according to claim 27, the opening being in the top.
- 29) A method of protecting contents against immersion in a fluid, the method including:
- 10    a) Placing the contents in a housing defining an internal cavity, the housing including an opening to thereby allow access to the cavity; and,
- b) Mounting a cover to the housing, the cover being adapted to cooperate with the housing to define an air reservoir containing at least a portion of the housing including the opening, the reservoir and the housing cooperating to prevent fluid entering the cavity.